

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 SAIGON 14564 211228Z

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ACTION SS-25

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C O N F I D E N T I A L SAIGON 14564

EXDIS

DELIVER S/PRS AND EA/VN OOB THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 21

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINS, PINT, VS

SUBJECT: REQUEST THAT DEPARTMENT SPOKESMAN SUPPORT THIEU'S CALL
FOR RESUMPTION OF NEGOTIATIONS

REF: (A) SAIGON 14540 (B) STATE 245718, (C) SAIGON 14010
(D) USDEL JEC PARIS 07870 (E) SAIGON 14108

1. AT A MEETING OF THE ASIAN PEOPLE'S ANTI-COMMUNIST LEAGUE ON NOVEMBER 21 ATTENDED BY MEMBERS OF SAIGON'S DIPLOMATIC CORPS, PRESIDENT THIEU DELIVERED AN ADDRESS (REF A) IN WHICH HE ISSUED A STRONG CALL FOR RESUMPTION OF NEGOTIATIONS WITH THE COMMUNIST SIDE AT LA CELLE ST CLOUD IN PARIS AND IN SAIGON. HE SAID, "...THE GOVERNMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF VIETNAM CONTINUES TO PERSEVERE AND DISPLAY ITS GOODWILL TO CALL UPON THE COMMUNISTS TO GO BACK TO REASON AND TOGETHER WITH THE REPUBLIC OF VIETNAM TO RESUME TALKS ON THE MODALITIES TO SOLVE THE VIETNAM PROBLEM IN A SPIRIT OF RECONCILIATION AND CONCORD AS STIPULATED BY THE PARIS AGREEMENT (REF A)". IN THESE WORDS THIEU STRONGLY REAFFIRMED THE INITIATIVE OF FOREIGN MINISTER BAC, WHO ON NOVEMBER 7 CALLED ON THE DRV/ "PRG" TO RETURN TO THE CONFERENCE TABLE WITHOUT PROCONDITIONS (REF C).

2. IN HIS SPEECH THIEU ELABORATED ON BAC'S DECLARATION SAYING THAT THE GNV "IS WILLING TO DISCUSS AND IMPLEMENT THE POLITICAL
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 SAIGON 14564 211228Z

SOLUTION ANTICIPATED IN THE PARIS AGREEMENT WHICH INCLUDES THE

SETTING UP OF THE NATIONAL COUNCIL OF NATIONAL RECONCILIATION AND CONCORD IN ORDER TO PROGRESS TOWARDS GENUINELY FREE AND DEMOCRATIC GENERAL ELECTIONS UNDER INTERNATIONAL SUPERVISION." (FYI: DEPARTMENT WILL NOTE THAT THIS IS A SIGNIFICANT MODIFICATION OF THE GVN'S PREVIOUS POSITION AT LA CELLE ST CLOUD WHICH CALLED FOR A PACKAGE AGREEMENT INCLUDING A SPECIFIC DATE FOR A GENERAL ELECTION. (REF D))

3. THIEU ALSO DECLARED: "BECAUSE IT ADVOCATES DETENTE, THE GOVERNMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF VIETNAM HOLDS NO HATRED TOWARDS ANY NATION IN THE WORLD AND IS WILLING TO ESTABLISH NORMAL RELATIONS WITH ALL COUNTRIES REGARDLESS OF THEIR POLITICAL OR SOCIAL REGIMES, PROVIDED THAT THEY RESPECT THE SOVEREIGNTY AND TERRITORIAL INTEGRITY OF THE REPUBLIC OF VIETNAM." (IN AN INFORMAL SPEECH EARLIER IN THE MONTH, REF E, THIEU HAD SAID THAT THE RVN WOULD ESTABLISH DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS WITH RUSSIA, COMMUNIST CHINA, AND EVEN NORTH VIETNAM, "IF THESE COUNTRIES DO NOT INTERVENE IN OUR INTERNAL AFFAIRS.")

4. WITH REGARD TO THE PRESIDENT'S REPETITION OF HIS EARLIER PROPOSAL FOR A TEN NATION SOUTHEAST ASIAN CONFERENCE, THE DEPARTMENT WILL RECALL THAT THE THAI GOVERNMENT IN EARLY 1973, WITHOUT REFERENCE TO THIEU'S OCTOBER 1972 SPEECH, SOUGHT TO FLOAT A SIMILAR PROPOSAL IN THE ASEAN CONTEXT WHICH WAS REBUFFED BY HANOI.

5. COMMENT: WE STRONGLY URGE THAT THE DEPARTMENT SPOKESMAN AT THE NOVEMBER 21 NOON BRIEFING MAKE A VOLUNTARY STATEMENT EXPRESSING THE SUPPORT OF THE USG FOR PRESIDENT THIEU'S FORTHCOMING INITIATIVE REFERRED TO IN PARAS 1 AND 2 ABOVE. IT IS OF THE UTMOST IMPORTANCE THAT WE SHOW THIEU THAT WE BACK HIS INITIATIVE AND, AS IN THE CASE OF THE SPOKESMAN'S EXCELLENT COMMENT ON BAC'S NOVEMBER 7 DECLARATION (REF C), PUBLIC USG SUPPORT IS NEEDED TO ASSURE THAT THIEU'S CALL TO RESUME NEGOTIATIONS RECEIVES THE PRESS EXPOSURE IT SHOULD HAVE.

6. WE PROPOSE THE FOLLOWING AS TEXT OF THE SPOKESMAN'S STATEMENT:

BEGIN TEXT: WE PRESUME YOU HAVE SEEN REPORTS OF PRESIDENT THIEU'S SPEECH DELIVERED IN THE MORNING OF
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 SAIGON 14564 211228Z

NOVEMBER 21, SAIGON TIME. IN THIS ADDRESS PRESIDENT THIEU, SPEAKING OF THE NEED TO RESUME TALKS CALLED FOR BY THE PARIS AGREEMENT, SAID:
BEGIN QUOTE:...THE GOVERNMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF VIETNAM CONTINUES TO PERSEVERE AND DISPLAYS ITS GOODWILL TO CALL UPON THE COMMUNISTS TO GO BACK TO REASON AND TOGETHER WITH THE REPUBLIC OF VIETNAM TO RESUME THE TALKS ON THE MODALITIES TO SOLVE THE VIETNAM PROBLEM IN A SPIRIT

OF RECONCILIATION AND CONCORD AS STIPULATED BY THE PARIS AGREEMENT. END QUOTE

HE ALSO SAID: BEGIN QUOTE: BECAUSE IT ADVOCATES RECONCILIATION AND CONCORD, THE GOVERNMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF VIETNAM IS WILLING TO DISCUSS AND IMPLEMENT WITHOUT DELAY THE POLITICAL SOLUTION ANTICIPATED IN THE PARIS AGREEMENT WHICH INCLUDES THE SETTING UP OF THE NATIONAL COUNCIL OF NATIONAL RECONCILIATION AND CONCORD IN ORDER TO PROGRESS TOWARDS GENUINELY FREE AND DEMOCRATIC GENERAL ELECTIONS UNDER INTERNATIONAL SUPERVISION. END QUOTE

THE USG CONSIDERS THIS INITIATIVE BY PRESIDENT THIEU WILL ADVANCE THE CAUSE OF PEACE IN VIETNAM IN THAT IT MAKES AN APPEAL FOR THE VIETNAMESE PARTIES TO RESUME THEIR NEGOTIATIONS IN AN EFFORT TO RESOLVE THE CONTINUING IMPASSE IN VIETNAM. WE THEREFORE SUPPORT THIS CALL BY THE PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF VIETNAM AND HOPE THAT ALL PARTICIPANTS WILL RETURN TO THE CONFERENCE TABLE AS PROVIDED IN THE PARIS AGREEMENT. END TEXT
MARTIN

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